



PHARMACY SERVICES

Office of the Medical Director

Contact the Editor: OMD@dmh.lacounty.gov

The Pharmacy Connection

A forum for pharmacy related news and updates for DMH programs

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A Message from the Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, MD

Quetiapine cost DMH about \$9 million last year making it one of the most expensive medications on the formulary. For this reason, we must ensure we use it in the most cost effective manner.

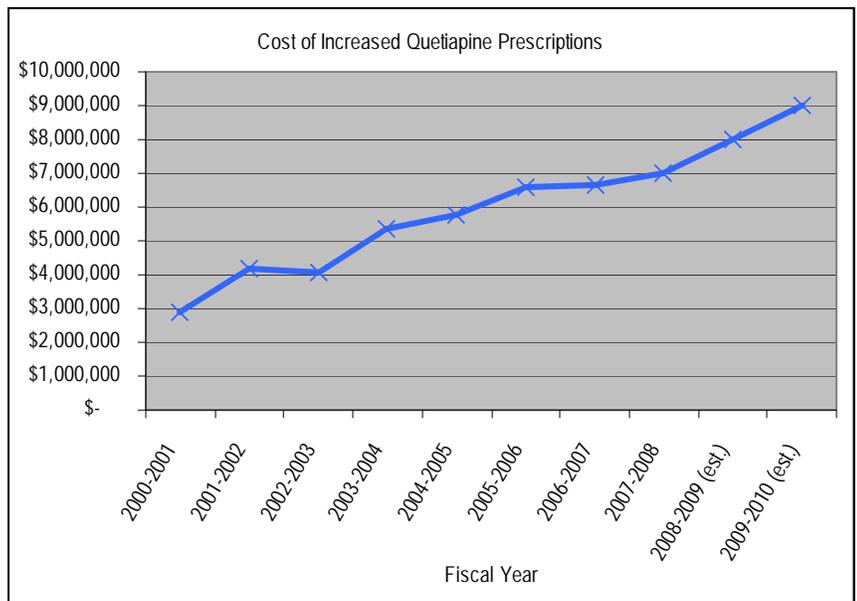
By considering cost effectiveness we hope to:

- ◇ use less expensive medications like risperidone when appropriate
- ◇ use quetiapine when indicated.

Given the high cost of quetiapine, we can assure quetiapine's continued presence on our formulary only if we clearly justify and document its necessity when we use it.

	quetiapine	risperidone
monthly supply	\$800	\$15

For every uninsured client who is prescribed risperidone rather than quetiapine, DMH can save approximately \$8,000 per year.



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